IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph number [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

At the lower end of fender 10, a stretchable cord 140 runs through a hole formed in fourth body section 110 and through a suction cup device 150 that is coupled to float tube 20. Cord [[130]] 140 and device 150 act to retain fender 10 to the pontoon boat while allowing fender 10 some freedom to move in response to movement of the pontoon boat. In other words, fender 10 may move slightly, for example, as the boat moves across the water or in response to the movement of the water. Cord [[130]] 140, however, will cause fender 10 return to its original position and prevent fender 10 from being ejected from the boat. In a preferred embodiment, cord [[130]] 140 is a ⅛-inch bungee cord.

IN THE CLAIMS

Below is a recitation of the claims and their current status.

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The fender of claim 1 wherein~~ A fender for protecting a pontoon boat, said pontoon boat comprising at least two float tubes supporting a floor and a fence positioned around the periphery of said floor, said fence having a generally vertical main part and a generally horizontally extending rail that is coupled to the top of said fence main part, said fender comprising:

a body portion, said body portion having a top part that extends generally downwardly and outwardly from said fence rail and a bottom part that extends generally downwardly and inwardly to said float tube, said bottom part ~~includes~~ including a first part that extends downwardly and inwardly at a first angle and a second part that extends downwardly and inwardly at a second angle and wherein said first angle is less than said second angle[[.]];

a top rim that extends generally horizontally from said top part of said body portion and ends at a flange that extends generally downwardly thereby forming a channel for receiving said fence rail; and

means for removably coupling said bottom part of said body portion to one of said float tubes.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The fender of claim 1 wherein said body portion includes a~~ A fender for protecting a pontoon boat, said pontoon boat comprising at least two float tubes supporting a floor and a fence positioned around the periphery of said floor, said fence having a generally horizontally extending rail spaced from the floor, said fender comprising:

a body portion, said body portion having a top part that extends generally downwardly and outwardly from said fence rail and a bottom part that extends generally downwardly and inwardly towards said float tube, wherein at least one channel ~~that~~ extends generally vertically ~~substantially the entire~~ along at least part of the length of said body portion[[.]]; and

a top rim formed atop said body portion with at least a section thereof extending generally inwardly to overlie and contact said generally horizontally extending rail of said fence.

4-18. (Cancelled).

19. (New) The fender of claim 2, further comprising at least one channel extending generally vertically along at least a portion of the length of said body portion.

20. (New) The fender of claim 3, wherein said at least one channel extends through a transition between said top part and said bottom part of said body portion.

21. (New) The fender of claim 3, further comprising a means for removably coupling said body portion to said pontoon boat.

22. (New) The fender of claim 21, wherein said means for removably coupling said body portion to said pontoon boat includes a flexible member that is adapted to be secured with said body portion and said pontoon boat.

23. (New) A fender for protecting a pontoon boat, said pontoon boat comprising at least two float tubes supporting a floor and a fence positioned around the periphery of said floor, said fence having a generally horizontally extending rail spaced from the floor, said fender comprising:

a body portion, said body portion having a top part that extends generally downwardly and outwardly from said fence rail and a bottom part that extends generally downwardly and inwardly towards said float tube;

a top rim formed atop said body portion with at least a section thereof extending generally inwardly to overlie said generally horizontally extending rail of said fence; and

means for removably coupling said body portion to said pontoon boat;

wherein said top rim is adapted to support at least a portion of the weight of said fender on said generally horizontally extending rail.

24. (New) The fender of claim 23, further comprising at least one channel extending generally vertically along at least part of the length of said body portion.

25. (New) The fender of claim 24, wherein said at least one channel extends generally vertically for a substantial distance along the length of said body portion.

26. (New) The fender of claim 24, wherein said at least one channel extends generally vertically for a substantial distance along one or more sections of said body portion.

27. (New) The fender of claim 24, wherein said at least one channel faces outwardly with respect to said pontoon boat.

28. (New) The fender of claim 24, wherein said at least one channel extends through a transition between said top part and said bottom part of said body portion.

29. (New) The fender of claim 23, wherein said means for removably coupling said body portion to said pontoon boat includes a flexible member that is adapted to be secured with said body portion and said pontoon boat.

30. (New) The fender of claim 29, wherein said flexible member is a stretchable cord.

31. (New) A fender for protecting a pontoon boat, said pontoon boat comprising at least two float tubes supporting a floor and a fence positioned around the periphery of said floor, said fence having a generally horizontally extending rail spaced from the floor, said fender comprising:

a body portion, said body portion having a top part that extends generally downwardly and outwardly from said fence rail and a bottom part that extends generally downwardly and inwardly towards said float tube, wherein at least one channel extends generally vertically along at least part of the length of said body portion;

a top rim formed atop said body portion with at least a section thereof extending generally inwardly to overlie and contact said generally horizontally extending rail of said fence; and

means for removably coupling said body portion to said pontoon boat.

32. (New) The fender of claim 31, wherein said at least one channel extends generally vertically for a substantial distance along the length of said body portion.

33. (New) The fender of claim 31, wherein said at least one channel extends generally vertically for a substantial distance along one or more sections of said body portion.

34. (New) The fender of claim 31, wherein said at least one channel faces outwardly with respect to said pontoon boat.

35. (New) The fender of claim 31, wherein said at least one channel extends through a transition between said top part and said bottom part of said body portion.

36. (New) The fender of claim 31, wherein said means for removably coupling said body portion to said pontoon boat includes a flexible member that is adapted to be secured with said body portion and said pontoon boat.

37. (New) The fender of claim 36, wherein said flexible member is a stretchable cord.